



LETTERPRESS

# The shekel

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RARE NUMISMATIC RELICS  
MARK THE FIRST BATTLES OF JEWS  
AGAINST HITLER FORCES

SPAIN  
1936

House to house fighting near Madrid



Published by the  
AMERICAN ISRAEL  
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



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As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) \$2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

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# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Morris Bram



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the newest Israel Numismatic Society . . . San Diego. Following a turnout of 75 people, 32 signed up for the new society. 15 joined AINA, much of this enthusiasm is due to the leadership of Irving Wool, president of the new group, together with his wife, Phyllis.

New clubs don't just "happen." I want to thank AINA Board Members Donna Sims, J.J. Van Grover, Mel Wacks, Moe Weinschel and Jerry Yahalom for their assistance. They assured AINA's participation in the formation of this group and the successful appearance of AINA at the American Numismatic Association Convention in California in August.

You have all received the beautiful brochure for our 1984 Study Tour. The hotel on the cover looks American . . . but if you can see yourself in the picture, you'd be in Israel. This 16th Annual Study Tour is co-sponsored by the IGCAM. Highlights will include a visit to the Israel Mint, a boat ride on the Galilee, a reception at which you will be introduced to the Mayor of Jerusalem and presentations of personalized gifts to you and your family from AINA and the Israel Government.

You CAN AFFORD to go. The trip is only

**\$1,645.00.**

We are thrilled at the growing support for the new AINA Bross Research Library. On its announcement at the May banquet in NYC, Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Levy of Cliffside Park, NJ immediately donated \$250.00. Your checks, your books and memorabilia are all needed. The Levy family also joined the 15th Annual Study Tour Banquet earlier at the Jerusalem Hilton.

Are you in the Southwest? The INS of Phoenix will convene Oct. 13, 1983 at Temple Beth Israel, 3310 N. 10th Ave. Details: Sam Abrams, 4626 N. 12 Place, Phoenix, AZ 85014.

Coming up! The Greater Florida International Coin Convention at the Hotel Diplomat in Hollywood, Florida, January 12-15, 1984. Join us at the exhibits, the educational slide shows, or at the auction by Numismatic Investments of Florida and Bellisario, Inc.

I think if you're willing to go out and participate in the activities of AINA, and if you're willing to stand up and be counted, as you must be, you're going to make enemies as well as friends. I think I'm a lucky fellow.

SHALOM,

*Morris*



Coll. of the Author

Obverse of a Republican 2 Peseta note. 10 pesetas was a day's pay for many in the 1930s.

## RARE NUMISMATIC RELICS MARK THE FIRST BATTLES OF JEWS AGAINST HITLER FORCES: SPAIN-1936.

by George Gilbert

BASED ON ESSAYS AND RESEARCH BY DR. ALBERT PRAGO, N.Y.

With Italian planes loaned by Mussolini, Franco brought an army of Moors from Africa to attack the elected government of Spain in July 1936. Loyal officers joined the people of Spain in defending their government. Most did not.

Hitler sent in the Condor Legion, German Air Force men in civilian clothing, Stuka dive bombers, tank teams and ultimately 16,000 men and 500 million Reichsmarks to in-

50,000 men to give Italy a say in Spain's future affairs.

When the Franco cabal used wireless telegraphy in the dead of the July 1936 night to alert conspirators to the planned revolt against the democratic Spanish government, it was a Jewish radio operator serving on a gunboat who also picked up the message.

He alerted friendly officers aboard the ship. They in turn passed the

---

**“Our war is not a Spanish civil war, it is a war  
of western civilization against the Jews  
of the entire world. The Jews want to destroy  
the Christians who, according to them, ‘came from  
the devil.’ ” — Gen. Quiepo de Lano,**

Oct. 10, 1936 after he and the other fascist generals led by Franco rebelled against the Spanish Republic.

---

sure a government friendly to Hitler on the other side of France.

Mussolini sent 763 planes, 1672 tons of bombs, nearly 10 million rounds of ammunition and over

word to officer friends aboard other ships; the overwhelming bulk of the Spanish Navy turned its back on the conspiracy. From the first minutes of the revolt, Jewish antifascists played

REPUBLIC 1931-1938

(República Española)

First Coinage

Nickel-Bronze



25 Centimos 1934

key roles in the defense of an elected government from the first minutes of this prelude to World War II.

A volunteer army of foreigners came secretly from Germany and Italy, and also from other countries to meet the Hitler-Mussolini-Franco threat. They became the International Brigades, young men and women who entered from the French border to form the oft-maligned foreign defenders of the Republic.

Estimates from various sources suggest that a total of 40,000 to 45,000 volunteers were Brigaders. Studies<sup>1</sup> of this group now show that 15 to 17.5% of the group were Jews.

Says Albert Prago, himself a volunteer and now a faculty member at The New School for Social Research, New York, "There were Jews from European, Asian, African, North and South American countries; the majority came from Eastern Europe, France and the United States."

A book<sup>2</sup> on the subject by Joseph Toch, published in Europe, contains this chart of Jewish volunteers:

Poland	2,250
U.S.A.	1,250
France	1,043
Great Britain	214
Palestine	267
Other European countries	1,095
40 other countries	1,602
U.S.S.R.	53
	7,774

NATIONALIST  
GOVERNMENT 1937-1947

First Coinage

Copper-Nickel



25 Centimos 1937

The Palestine group has been studied by three different authors. Evidence suggests that as many as 500 arrived from Palestine, twice the number suggested by Toch.

A veteran from Palestine was Ezekiel Pikar. In the 1930s he had been sent to England by the Haganah to study flying. Not long after he had earned his pilot's license, the revolt broke out. Pikar volunteered as a combat pilot. On his return later to Palestine, he entered the Palmach.

In the summer of 1936, Hitler Germany was the scene of the Olympiad; many of the world's finest athletes were in Europe. The Palestinian "Hapoel", a sports organization had almost all of its members there race to Spain to join the Popular Militia<sup>3</sup> within days of the Franco attack. The group saw action in Barcelona in July of 1936, the very first weeks of the fighting. Presumably some had Haganah arms training.

**Jews rally against Hitler's Allies**

An American group of athletes, headed by Alfred "Chick" Chakin, a physical training instructor at City College of New York was also in Europe. Chakin returned to the U.S. that summer and then to Spain to join the Brigade the following year. He died in combat as did 12 others from CCNY. 11 were Jews.

Sam Masters and Nat Cohen were East London garment workers cy-



Franco uniform ornament

cling in summertime France at the time of the July revolt. They biked across the border before the Fall call for the International Brigades.

The Soviets made no secret of support for the Republican Government.

Among outstanding Soviet Jews were General G. M. Stern, an adviser to the Spanish high command and General Iakov Vladimirovich Smushkevich who helped direct air battles over Madrid where the French Malraux Air Squadron opposed German and Italian combat planes.

Another Russian Jew was Abraham Abrahamson, killed at Brunete, the first person from Odessa to be named *Hero of the Soviet Union* for his service against Hitler's allies.

The Russians who survived the Franco bombardments did not survive the guns of a fearful Stalin. According to George F. Kennan, Ambassador to the Soviet Union:

"The purges (1938-39) seem to have been addressed with particular savagery to Soviet officials who served in Spain. If elsewhere in the bureaucracy something like 60 to 80 per cent fell in the purges, the proportion among those who served with greatest devotion and effectiveness—seems to have been closer to 100 per cent."

Prago, author of the first study of the Jews in Spain ever to be published in English (other books and articles are in Spanish, German, Pol-



Coll. of Ken Graeber

Emblem of the XIIIth Polish Battalion (produced after the war) bears dates (1936 and 1939) and slogan, *Vuestra Libertad y la Nuestra* (For your Liberty and Ours.) 1 3/4-inches high; screw-back construction. Bronzelike finish.

ish and Yiddish) points out that the Jews who came from England, Canada, France and the United States did not initially identify as Jews. They went to Spain as internationalists, as humanists, as anti-fascists and as communists and socialists.

### Formation of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade

He notes that an estimate by Robert Rosenstone in *Crusade of the Left* suggests that 30% of the American volunteers were Jews.

Many of these Americans did immediately identify as Jews such as David Miller the author and Zionist and Rubin Schecter whose wife has repeatedly stated that he had been an ardent Jewish scholar and a man dedicated to fighting back against Hitlerism.

So was Wilfred Mendelson. He wrote his father June 22, 1938:

"Today Jews are returning welcomed by the entire Spanish people to fight the modern Inquisition, and in many cases the direct descendants of the ancient persecutions. . . . Yes, Pop, I am sure we are fighting in the best Maccabean tradition."<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Edward K. Barsky of New York headed a group of volunteer nurses and medical personnel, 47% of whom were Jewish. Later he organized the Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee in America to assist survivors following the victory of Franco.

A Yiddish newspaper was established in Spain by Gershon Dua-Bogen, a Polish volunteer. It was called the *Freiheits Kemfer* (Freedom Fighter) and it was created only with the help of the Paris Jewish community.

### A Jewish Company is Formed

Extensive help from Jews in France for the International Brigadiers led to the plan for an all-Jewish company. Meetings were held on the Spanish front with large numbers of Jews, led by the Polish Jew Dua-Bogen and a French Jew Jacques

Kaminski who arranged front-line gatherings. The Jewish unit was formally created on December 12, 1937 with commanders Jean Barwinski and Stanislaw Matuszczak. This was the first organized Jewish armed resistance to European fascism.

The disproportionately larger number of Jews than of any other ethnic or national group participating in this armed resistance to the fascist and Nazi gang is one more proof that Jews were not willing victims led easily to the gas chambers.

With an order<sup>5</sup> typed on a Yiddish typewriter (provided by a French Jewish reporter), a company of about 200 men (mainly Poles) was formed at Tardadientes, just 100 meters from the enemy trenches. The company had already had a year of experience with combat actions.

Coll. of Ken Graeber



SPAIN'S ONLY KNOWN "SHORT-SNORTER": This example of emergency money created in many of the cities of Spain during the Civil War was issued in Motilleja. The light card stock is 3 1/4x2 1/2-inches. The obverse has the signature of Lincoln Brigader Stanley Yaworski. On the reverse: George Cook, Cliff Budgen, Curley Kramer, Bill Bailey, Eddie Edwardson, Wm. S. [illegible], Stan Buchanan and Mac Binn. From the Collection of Brigader Ken Graeber, author of the definitive book on the wartime local paper money issues of the Spanish Civil War. (International Bank Note Society edition, Publication #3, now out-of-print.)

Coll. of Ken Graeber



Wartime emblem of all members of the International Brigades still worn by veterans in many countries today. Obverse: Voluntarios Internacionales de la Libertad (International Volunteers for Liberty) with dates, 1936 and 1937. The white metal design features salute (clenched fist) of the Popular Front movements of Europe on a map of Spain plus a star over the globe. Cannons point out from the base of Spain.



The 1956 Hans Beimler Medal awarded to members of the International Brigades by the East German Government in 1956. Beimler was a Bavarian Diet member, arrested by the Nazis in 1933. He escaped from Dachau to secretly lead a German anti-Nazi group to Spain in 1936 to fight the Spanish-German Franco Army. He was killed in action. Among American recipients was Dr. Edward Barsky, head of the Medical Unit from the U.S.A. to Spain.

The Jewish company took the name of the Jewish folk-hero socialist Naftali Botwin who had been executed in Poland in 1925 for his assassination of a police provocateur planted into his organization.

Unlike the Jewish Legion of World War I, not all members of the Botwin Company were Jews. One was a German who thumbed his nose at his Nazi father by fighting alongside Jews against the Nazis on the Franco side. Another was a Greek who maintained that Greeks and Jews should be fighting side by side because Western civilization was the creation of Greek and Jewish parents.

Six Arabs were known to have fought alongside the Republican forces. One, possibly two of them, are known (depending on the authority quoted) to have been part of the Jewish Botwin Company.

The company may be said to have ended its service on November 15, 1938 with the disbanding of the International Brigades.

### **Victory After Defeat**

In less than a thousand days, the military experience gained by the Americans who had gathered themselves into the Abraham Lincoln Brigade was to become of great value to the Allies in World War II.

Of five Lincoln Brigaders selected in 1942 by U.S. Col. William ("Wild Bill") Donovan to operate behind enemy lines, four were Jews: Irving Fajans, Milton Felsen, Irving Goff and Milton Wolff. Lincoln Brigaders Sid Kurtz, Gerald Weinberg and Sid Rosenblatt died in WWII combat ac-



Contribution receipt for 50 mils issued by the Haifa Workers Syndicate to raise funds for the Spanish Civil War effort, ca. 1937.

Robert Capa photo



The International Brigades departed in Nov. 1938. Over 400,000 Spaniards crossed the border to France and internment in 1939.

Photo courtesy Mrs. Edward Barsky



Mme. M. Joliot-Curie, foremost French scientist, Dr. Edward Barsky and Albert Einstein at a Princeton, N.J. meeting in May 1948 where the group reviewed plans to raise funds in the U.S. for Spanish refugees still in distress 10 years after the end of the Civil War.

tion after the invasion of the Continent.

In one of the twists of fate, Pinkus Kartin, a Pole became one of the organizers of the Warsaw Ghetto. Another Pole, David Smulevitch served in the underground. He was given the perilous task of taking photo-

graphs of the crematoria from inside the camp Birkenau. His story has been recounted in Yuri Suhl's book, *They Fought Back*.

Joseph Epstein, a Frenchman was wounded in fighting in Spain. He returned to France where he later served as a partisan leader. He was



35 Years Later: Veterans Ken Graeber and Jim Persoff created the only known American medallic honors to the Brigades. This heavy cast 45mm medal in a tiny issue (1 18K gold, 1 silver .925 and approximately 25 bronze) was created in 1981. It was conceived for use in fund-raising and presentations to assist the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade's ongoing newsletter, The Volunteer. Collection of Ken Graeber.  
Obverse: the emblem of the IB. Reverse: emblem of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

captured and shot by the Nazis.

No wonder that dozens of books today recount exploits of Jewish vets of the IB as partisans, battle leaders and even as spies operating under the Nazi boot.

Dr. Alan York, noted collector of numismatic and other memorabilia related to the phenomenon of the concentration camps of Europe, has written to the author:

*"Republican refugees streamed into France. The French penned them up in camps in the French Pyrenees. Still there when Germany overran France, these pens became the infamous concentration camps Recedibou and De-Gurs. Many of the Loyalists were then shipped on to Mauthausen and death."*

The Franco revolt succeeded with the deaths of up to one million of Spain's 26-million citizens. Shortly thereafter, Hitler called for payment for his investment. Franco contributed his Blue Division to Germany; they were annihilated by the Russians by 1944.

The valiant effort of the International Brigades to help stop the Hitler-Mussolini-Franco gang dead in its tracks was defeated for a number of wellknown political (non-intervention) and diplomatic (appeasement) reasons.

### WERE THEY REDS? NO, says U.S. Ambassador

From the beginning of the war, young men of many nations poured into Spain to fight with the Loyalists. Some were mere soldiers of fortune; some were adventurers ready to fight for meagre pay; some unquestionably were communists from other European countries; but the greater number were just anti-Fascists, eager to fight the forces of Hitler and Mussolini.

These volunteers from many nations, and they **WERE** volunteers, constituted the famous International Brigades. Taking their place in the front line, they pushed the enemy back. For a time the International Brigade saved Madrid, but the fact that a communist officer from Germany commanded for a time, and many of the privates were non-Russian communists from Germany, Italy and France, was to be used in propaganda to create the impression in other countries that all the loyalists were communists. — Claude Bowers, American Ambassador to Spain, 1933-39.

### Honoring the Heroes

The heroism of these men and women went largely unhonored. No medallic awards were known to be made in Spain to the volunteers.

## FASCIST HONORS WERE ABUNDANT

The Franco forces issued the following medals during the Spanish Civil War:

Campaign Medals - 17 July 1936  
Medal for Wounded  
Medal for Injured  
Medal for Prisoners  
War Cross (for Officers)  
Air Medal

War Cross (for Enlisted Men)  
National Resurgence  
Volunteers of Majorca  
Volunteers of Bilbao  
Volunteers of the Siege of Oviedo  
Good Service to the Falange

Germany issued a Cross of Honour for the Spanish Campaign, primarily for the airmen of the Condor Legion

(the bombers of undefended Guernica.) Issued in four grades.—Dr. Alan York, June 1983.

Honors were commendations in the written orders of the armed forces.

The East Germans and Poles later provided some honors to the veterans.

Abraham Lincoln Brigaders returned with lapel buttons, a "short snorter," and a few pesetas. Little else.

An archive<sup>6</sup> of the American contribution has been established at Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.

The author would appreciate knowledge of numismatic ephemera or scripophily relating to the Jewish contributions to the defense the Second Spanish Republic (1931-1939.)

### Bibliography

The Spanish Civil War by Hugh Thomas; Harper & Brothers, N.Y. 1961.  
My Mission to Spain by Claude Bowers, American Ambassador to Spain, 1933-39; Victor Gollancz Ltd., London; 1954.  
Jews in the International Brigades in Spain by Albert Prago; published in Jewish Currents, February and March 1979 and available as pamphlet at 75¢.  
Russia and the West under Lenin and Stalin by George F. Kennan, Little Brown and Co. Boston, 1960.

### Footnotes

1. Jews in the International Brigades by Albert Prago.
2. Quoted by Prago from the unidentified Toch work.
3. Prago.
4. From Let My People Know, the Story of Wilfred Mendelson.
5. Yidn in Shpahish Krig, 1936-1939 by David Diamant, Yiddish Buch, Warsaw-Paris, 1937.
6. Donation of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, New York City.

Coming:

A NUMISMATIC EXPOSITION OF

**ANTI-SEMITISM**

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF *The Shekel*  
To appear Spring 1984

### WANTED

Articles, Photos, Artwork, Anecdotes, Historical Data,  
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Coins of Miesko III

## MEDIEVAL COINS WITH HEBREW LETTERS

by Saul and Sondra Needleman

Coins bearing Hebrew legends have appeared at many intervals over the centuries since the founding of a Jewish State. Such coins first appeared during the Judean battles for independence from the Seleucids leading to the formation of the Hasmonaean dynasty (ca. 135 BCE). These coins of the Second Jewish Commonwealth continued for a period of approximately 270 years ending with the Bar Kochba War against the Romans and Hadrian in 135 CE<sup>1,2,3</sup>.

The second major appearance of coins with Hebrew legends covers a 200 year period during the 11th and 12th centuries in Hungary<sup>4</sup>. This coincides with another series from 12th century Poland<sup>5,6</sup>. These latter two series form the subject of this article.

Certainly the most famous of the non-Jewish coins bearing Hebrew legends are in the extensive series of Denmark struck for Christian IV. These have the mixed Hebrew-Latin legend **נ/נ' IVSTVS IVDEX** (God is a righteous judge), the personal motto of the king<sup>7</sup>. These coins have been catalogued<sup>7</sup> and theories relating to the significance of these pieces have been discussed in detail elsewhere<sup>7,8</sup>. Closely associated with these are the special coins and

medals of Gustavus Adolphus II of Sweden containing lengthy legends, portions of which are expressed with Hebrew words. In addition, almost every coin struck during the reign of Charles IX of Sweden<sup>9</sup> and an occasional piece from Frederick III of Denmark includes the word JEHOVAH given in Hebrew letters.

### God's Name in Hebrew

The use of Hebrew words on coins of the Hanseatic cities, beginning with the Reformation and extending through numerous religious wars into the 18th century, was an extension of the pattern initiated by Christian IV who believed that a) God supported his personal cause over all others and, b) God's name should be expressed only in God's language which Christians considered to be Hebrew<sup>7</sup>. Thus many Hanseatic cities included at least **נ/נ'** on their coinage during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) and well into the 18th century.

### The Coins of Hungary

Beginning in the 11th century, Hebrew letters began to appear on coins of Hungary<sup>4</sup>. Over a period of 200 years, during the Arpad dynasty, certain Hungarian obols contained, not Hebrew words, but one of four He-

# COINS OF THE ARPAD DYNASTY



Obverse



Reverse

brew letters as part of their overall design. This ended only when Charles Robert of Anjou, of the house of Naples, became the first Angevian king (Charles I) of Hungary in 1308.

The Hebrew letters forming part of the design are distinct from the legends themselves which generally contain the names of the king and of the country. In all cases, only a single Hebrew letter, either "alef" א "chet" ח "fay" פ or "tet" ט was used. Why Hebrew letters were used in Hungarian coins and why the use was restricted essentially to these four letters is answered in an understanding of the economic and historic considerations of the time.



Arpad Dynasty Coin (1100-1300 CE)

Jews are known to have resided in Pannonia and Dacia on the Danube, having arrived in the wake of the Roman legions. Jewish historical tra-

dition, however, mentions Jews in Hungary only from the second half of the 11th century when Jews from the German states, Bohemia and Moravia migrated there. Though many left Germany in response to persecution and restrictions on their economic status, many undoubtedly entered Hungary as merchants and men seeking commercial opportunity. Within a short time, some appear to have achieved minor positions of authority in the government.

As early as 1063, Queen Anastasia of Hungary permitted a Jew to mint his own coins at the Royal Mint, but, by 1092, the Council of Szabolcs passed the first Hungarian laws which discriminated against the Jews<sup>10</sup>. Kálmán (Koloman) (1095-1116) continued the revision and modernization of Hungarian laws and issued strong protective laws at the close of the 11th century when remnants of the Crusader armies attempted to attack the Jews.

For the most part, the Jews of Hungary resided only in a few of the major towns: Buda, Pressburg (Bratislava), Tyranu (Trnava) and Esztergom. There they assumed important positions in the economic life of the community, particularly important in the intermittent struggle with the revitalized Byzantine empire which threatened Hungarian independence and its very existence. The Golden

Bull of 1222 under Andrew II (Andreas) resolved the disputes between king and the nobles by greatly restricting the abusive practices of the king. An article was included which prohibited the Jews (and Moslems) from holding certain offices (including mintmaster) and from receiving titles of nobility.

The extraordinary expenses incurred by Andrew II (1205-1235) in paying for an extravagant court and a foreign policy of personal ambition was compounded by the expenses of his crusade of 1217. The legal status of the Jews was improved under Bela IV (Privilege of 1251) (1235-1270) who had hardly succeeded his father when the Mongols invaded Hungary. To reconstruct and defend the land, Bela needed money. This need for funds continued under Stephen V (1270-1272). As was so often the case in medieval times, as decrees were promulgated restricting the rights of the Jews, large sums were borrowed from them to meet royal whims and needs. In exchange, despite the 'Bull', Jews were appointed to royal posts including masters of the Mint.

Theka was Mintmaster under Andrew II and Bela IV (from 1225 to 1243). A "tet" appears on the reverse of a number of varieties of a coin showing a lion under a tree with a star in the upper field and a "tet" in the upper right. "Shin" appears on coins of similar design. These and some pieces containing a six-pointed star may represent Samsom who followed Theka into office.

Henoch and at least two of his sons, Altman and Wolf, were next into office but only Henoch and Altman are represented on coins by the "chet" and "alef", respectively. Ferdman is the final Jewish Mintmaster represented in this series of coins; the "fay" refers to his tenure of office. Thus, the use of Hebrew letters may designate the sign of au-

thority of the particular Jewish mintmaster, the office having been granted as partial payment against loans made to the king.

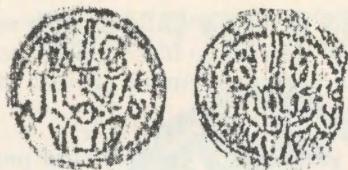
A very scarce coin of this period shows a portrait of Bela IV, facing, and includes a "mem" in the legend. The "mem" does not identify with the known Jewish Mintmasters.

## In Poland

The situation relating to the use of Hebrew on coins of Poland parallels closely the conditions which led to its appearance in Hungary. Jews came to Poland from the same German states and from parts of modern Czechoslovakia about the same time as they entered Hungary - and generally for the same reasons.

Legend speaks of a Jewish merchant, Abraham Prochownik, who was offered the Polish crown around the middle of the 9th century. The word, Prochownik, generally was translated as "the gun-powder man" but more frequently referred to "dust-covered", an epithet relating to travelling merchants. Another legend of the same period, suggests that a Jewish delegation from Germany applied for admission to Poland and was granted certain privileges.

Mieszko II (1025-1034) succeeded his father, Boleslav I (992-1025). He, in turn, was succeeded by his son, Casimir I the Restorer (1039-1058) and grandson, Boleslav II the Bold (1058-1079). Each lost ground to the decentralizing efforts of the nobles which laid the groundwork for the invasion of Silesia in 1109 by Emperor Henry V and, later, all of Poland by the Mongols. Boleslav's victory over Henry led to strong cultural advances in Poland. He divided Poland among his sons so that Poland, like its neighbors, Germany and Kievan Russia, ceased to be a united state for two hundred years.



Coins of Mieszko III (1181-1202 CE)

In each of the new principalities, there grew up around the local Piast (dynasty) prince, a powerful upper class consisting of the officials and clergy headed up by the local bishop which remained in conflict with the king. This created divided loyalties and laid the country open to foreign claims to Polish territory or outright invasion. As was the case in Hungary, the constant conflict between the upper class (barons) and the king for power over the state and between the princes and foreign rulers for sovereignty over Polish provinces created a constant need for fresh money to pay for armies, supplies and court intrigues.

Excavations in Great Poland and near Wloclawek have yielded coins with Hebrew inscriptions issued under Mieszko III (1173-1209), Casimir II the Just (1127-1194), Boleslav the curly (1201) and Leszek the White (1205). A few pieces exist from the reigns of Przemyslaw I and his son about 40 years later.

The Hebrew coins of the Piast dynasty comprise a large series of types based on only a few major variations in theme. These include three main groups divided according to when they were minted. The first group (from the 12th century) uses broad flat engraving probably made with a spherical gravure. The second group (from the mid-13th century) shows a more delicate engraving technique with annulets rimming the coins. The third group (from the end of the 13th century) also shows thicker engraving but uses normal (solid) lines around the rim and includes a rim around the crown.

Some inscriptions related to the ruler such as (in Hebrew) "Mieszko King of Poland" or "Mieszko Duke". Others include the names and titles of the Jewish Mintmasters, e.g., "of the (coining) house of Abraham the son of Isaac Nagid" or "Joseph (of) Kalisz", "Ben Jacob" or "Joseph ha-kohen". Some Hebrew legends constitute the entire design of the coin while in other examples, the legend or names appear around the central design which shows the king or a bishop or an animal. Later pieces include the names "Menahem", "Jacob" and "Abraham" as Mintmasters. Religious blessings constitute a large class of the legends.

In classifying the coins, difficulties often are encountered in reading the legends because the Hebrew alphabet does not have vowels and the diacritical marks were not used on coins. In addition, some of the letters resemble each other but with varied interpretations. For example, it is difficult to distinguish between the "raish" and "daled", the "kof" and "bet" and the "zion" and "vav". Occasionally, the letters are given in retrograde which adds to the confusion.

Coins of Casimir (1177-1181) are 19mm in diameter with an average weight of 0.18 g. The design shows a bishop with a staff as a symbol of his reign. Some of the legends include: "BRACHA KOSHER", "BRACH HASHECH", "BRACH YOSHEF" and "BRACHA KASHI". The latter undoubtedly refers to Casimir and must be read as "Blessings for Casimir".

The question arises as to why a bishop is depicted on coins of Casimir in conjunction with Hebrew writing. These pieces come from the Gniezno mint where the bishop was Peter (1166-1182). Casimir was friendly with Peter and appointed Peter supervisor of the mint. This design extended after Casimir into the reign of Mieszko III suggesting

that at certain times, the bishop might have had greater authority than the prince.

A more important question relates to why the Gniezno mint made use of Hebrew words. It is known that a large colony of Jews existed in Gniezno; these Jews largely were immigrants from Germany. Many were artisans who had experience as mintors in Germany and who attempted to serve in the same capacity in Poland. In 1181, Mieszko attempted to consolidate his authority over large parts of Poland. Along the way, he occupied Gniezno and solicited loans from the Jewish community to pay his army. In exchange for these loans, Mieszko "rented" the mint to the Jews for specific periods of time. Early pieces contained legends in Latin but eventually the Jewish mintors obtained permission to strike pieces with Hebrew legends. Certain limitations were placed on Jewish minting: the contract had to be renewed annually; they were given the right to change designs only twice annually instead of three times as was the norm; and the coins could circulate only in the areas controlled by Mieszko. Since Mieszko ruled for 20 years after this time, at least 40 different types of coins must exist.

The coins of Mieszko generally include a "mem" (for Mieszko) or "Mes" as part of their design. These coins are 21 mm in diameter and have an average weight of 0.19 g. Some coins of this period show two figures, presumably Mieszko III and his brother, Casimir, or Mieszko and his son, Odon. Other religious legends (in Hebrew) include "BRACHO TOVA", "BEHAR GALACH" (the first prince) and "RABICHO AMI" my nation is numerous.

A few legends are not of a direct religious theme. These include identifying legends such as Mieszko

(king) Joseph Hacohen (moneyer), M. prince of Poland and Melech Kaszer (King Casimir). Others are of a more joyous nature such as "MAZEL TOV" and "ROV TOV".

The Polish series is more extensive than the Hungarian series but few Polish pieces are in private hands. Most are in museums.

In the 11th and 12th centuries, the attention of the Christian society was directed to largely unsuccessful Crusades to "liberate" the Holy Land. By the 16th and 17th century, the focus was directed to wars between the Protestant northern Europe and the Catholic south. In all cases, money was needed to raise armies. As always the Jews were prevailed upon to extend loans to all sides. Frequently, appointment to high office, including some as Masters of the Mints, constituted part of the repayment. The appearance of Hebrew words or legends on coins stems from this fact.

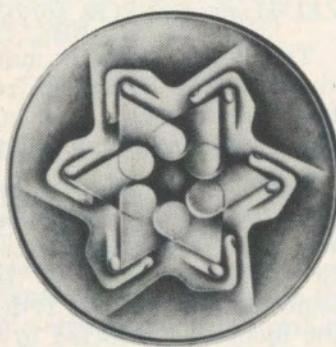
### Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Mr. Art Needleman for his aid in translating the Hungarian reference and Mr. Emil Stempel for translating the Polish articles.

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# ISRAEL STRIKES MEDAL TO HONOR VOLUNTEER



A new medal commemorating all voluntary services has been minted in Israel in gold, silver and bronze to give official recognition and appreciation to volunteers. These are men and women who have listened to the "call of conscience," translating moral obligation into actions.

Any organization or individual wishing to honor a volunteer now has a dignified, unforgettable way by presenting the Volunteer Medal.

To give wholly and wholeheartedly, "without receiving a reward," is the essence of the volunteer activity for which Jews have always been well-known. It is the highest of virtues between man and man in Judaism. The donor of charity gives of his money only, and helps only the poor; the volunteer gives of himself (and of his precious time), helping rich and poor alike.

In 1972, the Israeli Government founded the "Center for Volunteer Services." The Center's motto, "To give is also to receive," expresses perfectly the friendship and partnership that develops between the "giver" and "receiver."

## Description of the Medal

Obverse: A chain of hands holding hearts, in the form of a Star of David, expressing the essence of volunteer activity.

Reverse: The verse: *Because with a perfect heart they volunteered*: (Chronicles 1,29,9), in Hebrew and English; and the emblem of the Center for Volunteer Services in Israel.

Edge: Gold medals—milled; silver and bronze medals—the words *State of Israel* in Hebrew and English, the State emblem and the serial number; "Silver 935" on the silver medals.

Design: David Ben-Hador.

Engraving: Victor Huster.

Minting: Gold and Bronze—Moshe Hecht. Silver—the Government Mint.

Profits from the sale of these medals are earmarked for the improvement of Israel's landscapes, the establishment and preservation of her national parks and reserves, and the excavation of antiquities.

## Details of the Medals

Catalog No.	Metal	Diameter	Weight
35096183	Gold 18 carat	18 mm.	4.4 gr.
25096343	Silver/935	34 mm.	22 gr.
15096595	Bronze	59 mm.	98 gr.

# NEW TOURISM MEDAL ANNOUNCED



Israel, The Holyland, has been a tourist and pilgrims' attraction for centuries.

"And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan" to see "the land, what it is . . . whether it be good or bad . . ." (Number 13, 17-19).

Today, three thousand years later, there remains no doubt that the land is "good." The number of tourists of the modern world visiting Israel each year has long passed the million mark.

"And they came to the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bore it between two upon a staff . . ." (Numbers 13, 23).

It was once the custom to welcome a visitor from afar with "bread and wine" (Genesis, 14, 18). The tourist today can be welcomed with the new Israel State Medal: "Israel Welcomes the Tourist".

"Be friendly to the tourist" is a message to the people of Israel. Much thought and effort goes into making the Israeli public aware of the delights of tourism in their own country and of the pleasures of holidaying and touring in Israel for guests from afar.

## Description of the Medal

Obverse: The emblem of the State of Israel; the words: "Israel welcomes the tourist", in Hebrew and in English.

The emblem of tourism: a cluster of grapes borne on a staff between two figures.

Reverse: The sun surrounded by a view of settlements and the sea, and the words: "Visit Israel the miracle on the Mediterranean" in Hebrew and in English.

Edges: Gold medal-milled; silver and bronze medals - the words "State of Israel" in Hebrew and in English, the emblem of the State and the serial number. On the silver medals - "silver 935".

Design: Yaakov Zim

Engraving: Moshe Nov

Minting: Bronze and gold - Hecht; silver - The Government Mint.

## Details of the medal

Catalogue Number	Metal	Diameter mm	Weight grams
35095187	Gold 750	18	4.4
25095347	Silver 935	34	22
15095599	Bronze	59	98

# ISRAELI BANKNOTES OFFERED TO COLLECTORS



Crisp, uncirculated 50, 100, and 500 sheqalim banknotes in use today in Israel are now available as a set in an attractive laminated wallet.

All three notes are legal tender, issued by the *Bank of Israel*, depicting portraits of prominent Jewish personalities who made an invaluable contribution in shaping the destiny of Israel.

## 50 Sheqalim

The portrait of *David Ben-Gurion*, proclaimer of Israel's independence in 1948, is shown in profile on the obverse, while the back depicts the Golden Gate, in the Old City of Jerusalem. This bill is predominantly creme, grey and brown colored.

## 100 Sheqalim

*Ze'ev Jabotinsky*, founder of the Zionist Revisionist Party, is depicted on the obverse, on a background of the Shuni Inn near Binyamina. The backside shows Herod's Gate in Jerusalem. The dominant color of the bill is orange-brown.

## 500 Sheqalim

*Baron Edmond de Rothschild*, who in 1882 started intensive activities in the settlement of the Holy-land, is depicted on the obverse whose dominant color is red. The backside shows a vine shrub, and in Hebrew alphabetical order, the names of the 44 settlements the Baron founded or helped to found.



## THE WEEPING WOMAN OF JUDEA

by D. Bernard Hoenig, NLG

Ostensibly it was just an ancient victory coin. Struck by order of the Roman Senate, *Judea Capta* celebrated the conquest of the tiny nation of Judah in 70 C.E.

But unlike the coins of other nations, Rome's commemorative continued to circulate long after the War of the Jews had ended. Almost obsessively, *Judea Capta* was minted in fifteen varieties for 26 years, through the reigns of Vespasian and his sons, Titus and Domitian. Wherever there was a Roman mint, the *Capta* coinage was issued - in Judah, Rome, Gaul and Spain.

At Caesarea it was even struck with Greek lettering to make the meaning clear to the people with traditions stemming from the Hellenistic period.

Writes Yacov Meshorer, Numismatic Curator at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem:

The victory of Rome over Judaea, with its conquest of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., appears to have been the most decisive event in the history of the Flavian dynasty, for the perpetuation of that victory by Vespasian and Titus was something quite extraordinary. As against the small number of coins minted, for example, by Augustus after the conquest of Egypt, or struck in commemoration of other victories such as those over the Spanish tribes and the Germans in the 1st and 2nd centuries C.E., the enormous quantity of Roman coins intended to glorify and blazon forth the victory over the Jews is particularly notable. Called after the Latin inscription that appears on some of them, these *Judea Capta* coins were minted in vast quantities, in gold, in silver, and in bronze, in various denominations, and in many mints throughout the Roman world, that of Rome itself setting the principal tone.



Judaea Liberata Medal of 1958

Judaea Capta coins were also struck in the mint at Caesarea which functioned not only in the days of the procurators and of Agrippa I but more especially from the fourteenth year of the emperor Nero (67 C.E.). At Caesaria—and only there—the coins of Vespasian and Titus were struck in Greek.

A few historians speculate that the gold edition was made from the melted metal of the Menorah, the seven-branched candelabrum that once stood in Jerusalem's Holy Temple.

To the Jewish people, it was a most despised coin. It followed them throughout the Diaspora, turning up in every corner of the world. It taunted them. It gnawed at their souls.

Ivdaea Capta or Ivdaea Devicta (Judea has been conquered, or Judea has been defeated) was stamped around the edges of most of the coins. Some simply stated: Ivdaea. Even that was enough to chill the

exiled Jew who knew what had once been and what was then lost.

With rare exceptions, the melancholic theme of Judea Capta centered around the Weeping Woman of Judea. She was a forlorn figure, crushed and defeated, sitting on the ground, a mourner beneath a palm tree. A male figure (some suggest it may be a Roman soldier or even Vespasian, himself; others theorize that it is another Jewish prisoner) stands above the despondent Jewess. It was a diabolical design, intended to embarrass the people of Israel as much as to commemorate the triumph of Rome. Judea, it mockingly declared, was the weak, sobbing female, cowering under a palm tree.

Who was the devious designer of Judea Capta? Since records were rarely kept of ancient mintmasters, the actual creator of this infamous coin will never be known. Nevertheless, a study of biblical writings suggests that the Weeping Woman of Judea may have been designed by a citizen of the very country it was intended to demean. At the least, there is ample suggestion that the designer was familiar with the works of Jeremiah, one of Judaism's greatest prophets.





Amazing similarities can be found between the *Capta* female and Jeremiah's allegorical visions of a vanquished Israel. Probably the most well known reference to the Weeping Woman is found in *Jeremiah 31:14*. In poignant prose it is related how Jacob's wife, Rachel, wept for the Children of Israel as they passed by her roadside tomb on their way to exile.

“... a voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children; She refuseth to be comforted for her children.”

Throughout The Book of Lamentations ascribed to Jeremiah following the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C.E., Jerusalem is portrayed as a weeping woman. Indeed, the opening words alone would suffice to link the coin with the prophet.

“Alas—she sits in solitude. The city that was great with people has become like a widow; ... she weeps bitterly in the night and her tears are on her cheeks.”

The symbolism continues in the second chapter:

“The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence; they laid dust on their heads and donned sackcloth; the maidens of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.” (verse 10)

The most convincing confirmation of this theory is a centuries-old elegy recited each summer by Jews on the Ninth Day of Av (Tishe B'Av) which commemorates the fall of the two Temples. The author, Eleazar Kalir, recalls an old legend of Jeremiah's confrontation with a mysterious woman who is weeping while the Temple burned. She was dressed in black; her face was distorted and repulsive. Horrified, the prophet challenged:

“In the name of G-d and man, what are you—demon or human?”

The woman moaned that she was the Mother of all Israel, once beautiful and youthful. Now, she blamed herself for the ravishing of her lovely Temple.

Pray to your G-d,” she implored Jeremiah, “until He will answer and say, ‘it is enough’ and will deliver me from sword and captivity.”

The final shred of evidence that it was a Jew—and not a knowledgeable Roman—who designed the *Capta* coin is the seven-branched palm tree that stands between the woman and the warrior.

For years that tree had been used by Jewish artisans to symbolize the Temple's seven-branched Menorah which, according to Halachic ruling could not be duplicated in any manner. Only someone of the Jewish



70 CE



BMCRE 71 CE



72 CE

faith would have known—or cared—about such a law. Indeed, as indicated on the Arch of Titus in Rome, the Romans had no qualms about depicting the Menorah or any of the Holy Vessels carried into captivity.



Detail from Arch of Titus shows Jewish war captives and Temple trophies.

Nevertheless, one major question remains to be answered. Why would any Judean have collaborated with the enemy to create such a degrading commemorative? Perhaps he (she?) was under duress? Or subjected to torture? But with experienced mints throughout the world and handsome coinage already noteworthy for its classic beauty, Rome would not likely have required the aid of a captured Jew for such a purpose.

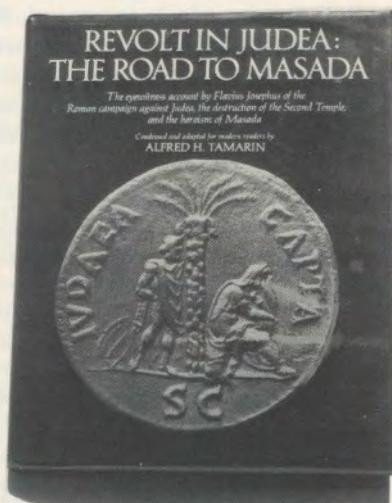
Perhaps then, it was a voluntary act by an influential Jew; someone who had already ingratiated himself with the Roman leadership. Immediately the name Josephus Flavius comes to mind. Supreme Commander of the Galilean forces. Brilliant historian to whom the world is indebted for knowledge of the Second

Commonwealth period. Josephus—turncoat and betrayer of his people!

Defeated at the fortress of Jotapata in 67 C.E., he cunningly convinced Vespasian to spare his life by predicting the Roman's ascent to the throne. When Vespasian did in fact shortly become Emperor, Josephus quickly moved into a new role as his aide and confidant. He even went so far as to adopt the Roman leader's family name, Flavius.

As the Emperor's "Expert on Jewish affairs", Josephus frequently advised the Roman legionnaires in their battles against his countrymen. Although not an active participant in the victory celebrations, he was present in Rome at the time and wrote about them in detail.

Thus, it would not be out of character for Josephus to have contributed to the triumph by suggesting the *Capta* commemorative. As a scholar, his knowledge of the Torah and later writings was extensive. That he would choose Jeremiah as the spiritual, insightful source of the coin, would not be surprising. In his autobiography, Josephus compared himself to that great prophet who had



20 Centuries later: Josephus writings are illustrated with Judea Capta coin!

also urged the Jews to surrender (albeit for different reasons, having been foretold of the suffering of the people).

In 1958, almost two thousand years after the first *Judea Capta* was struck, a moving postscript to the Weeping Woman's story was added. On the occasion of Israel's Tenth Anniversary, the government issued its first State Medal. Designated, "Israel Liberata" (Israel has been freed)—the gold and silver pieces were a numismatic triumph intended to forever eliminate the stigma of *Judea Capta*. The medal was designed by one of Israel's foremost numismatists, Leo Kadman who sketched it

for Ote Wallish for the gold and silver versions. Two silver and a copper version were designed then by Rothschild and Lippman (Roli).

One side of the medal duplicates the ancient Roman coin with its Weeping Woman of Judea. The opposite side depicts the very same Jewish woman, now standing proud and happy besides the seven-branched palm tree. Replacing the Roman warrior is a Chalutz with a hoe. Around the edge is the phrase, *Israel Liberata* and in Hebrew, Ten Years for the Freedom of Israel. Ten Stars of David encircle the design to counter the chains of captivity shown on the medal's reverse.

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## ANOTHER BIBLICAL SOURCE FOR THE WEEPING WOMAN

Soon after the Temple at Jerusalem was razed by the victorious forces of Titus in 70 AD his father, Vespasian, who first led the Roman legions against the Jewish revolutionaries and who at the end of the war was Emperor of Rome, started an issue of coins commemorating that hard fought victory.

The *Judea Capta* series extended from 70-95 AD, under Vespasian and his two sons who succeeded him as Emperor—Titus and Domitian (who had taken no part in the war!). These commemoratives were issued in bronze, silver and gold denominations, and were struck both at Roman and Judaean mints.

The basic design elements are a palm tree and a seated figure of a female (allegorical Judaea) in an attitude of mourning. The destruction of the Temple and the depiction of a mourning Jewess on these coins is coincidentally (or purposely?) like the warning of the Prophet Isaiah (c. 700 BC):

"For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen"  
(Isaiah 3:8).

"Thy men shall fall by the sword and thy mighty in the war. And her gates shall lament and mourn, and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground" (Isaiah 3:25-26)".

Other *Judea Capta* variations include the standing figure of the victorious emperor, a male captive, the goddess Victory, and Roman war implements (trophy). — Mel Wacks, *The Handbook of Biblical Numismatics*.





Gold aureus of Emperor Vespasian, 69-79 C.E.

Before the exuberant anniversary celebrations had ended, the entire issue was sold out. The Government Coins and Medals Corporation quickly minted a different version, showing the Jewish woman as a young mother proudly holding aloft her new born baby. The pioneer is seen planting a sapling. It is this liberation medal that has remained as the nation's most popular numismatic item, having sold more than 100,000 pieces in gold, silver and bronze editions.

Indeed, its inspiring theme truly symbolizes the reborn State of Israel and reflects the fulfillment of G-d's promise to the tearful Rachel:

"Thus saith the Lord: Refrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears; For thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; And they shall come back from the land of the enemy. And there is hope for thy future, saith the Lord; And thy children shall return to their own border." (Jeremiah, 31:15-16)

## ADDITIONAL READING ON JUDAEA CAPTA

### Judaea Capta Series in The Shekel

- Coinage of Judea — Judaea Capta (P. Zerman) Vol. XII, Issue 4, p. 23.
- Coins and Currency — Judaea Capta Vol. VIII, Issue 4, p. 26.
- Even the Copies are Copied — Judaea Capta (M. Wacks) Vol. V, Issue 2, p. 10.
- How to Find an Authentic Judaea Capta (E. Janis) Vol. V, Issue 1, p. 20.
- Israel Free and Captive (D. Hendin) Vol. XIII, Issue 4, p. 38.
- Jewish History in Coins (A. Hendin) Vol. III, Issue 1, p. 25.
- Judaea Capta — Capta Judaea (L. Kanitz) Vol. IV, Issue 4, p. 9.
- Judaea Capta Variant Located (E. Janis) Vol. IV, Issue 1, p. 2.
- Judaea Capta Coins: Early Publicity Campaign (D. Hendin) Vol. X, Issue 3, p. 10.
- Notes on Judaea Capta Coins (Y. Meshorer) Vol. II, Issue 1, p. 7.
- Victoria Navalis Coins (E. Mendelsohn) Vol. VII, Issue 3, p. 11.

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## SHEKEL IN NEW AUCTION RECORD

### N.Y. TIMES REPORTS \$152,380 SHEKEL BID

A rare Jewish shekel brought 320,000 Swiss francs, or approximately \$152,380, at a Sotheby's public auction June 9 in Zurich, Switzerland. That is said to be the highest price ever paid at public auction for any Jewish coin.

The transaction took place at Sotheby's Brand Sale, a sale for foreign and ancient coins from the famous Brand Collection.

The top-priced shekel has carried a catalogue estimate of only 50,000 to 70,000 Swiss francs, so the winning bid exceeded even the higher of those two figures by a factor of more than four. But the truly amazing arithmetic is the great disparity between the winning bid and the price that was paid for the coin the last time it changed hands in 1920. According to Sotheby's, noted numismatist Virgil M. Brand obtained it at that time by private treaty from an Amsterdam coin dealer for a mere \$400.

—N.Y. Times, June 16, 1983

### PALESTINIAN COIN DEALER TOP BIDDER FOR SHEKEL

The buyer of the rare fifth year shekel (Meshorer 164; Reifenberg 145; BMC 20, pl. 30, 9), one of thirteen known to the world of numismatists, was Barakat, a Palestinian Arab dealer with homes in both Jerusalem and Beverly Hills, California.

The pre-auction estimate of 50,000-70,000 Swiss francs (\$33,600 U.S.) fell far short of the \$150,000 price which did not include the further 10% cost paid by the purchaser to the auction house.

It has been reported that a similar specimen was acquired by U.S. collector Nelson Bunker Hunt for \$60,000 from a U.S. dealer.



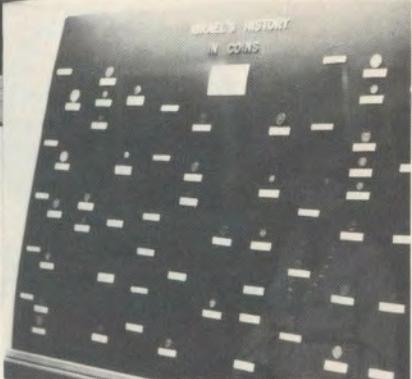
### RARE FOURTH YEAR SHEKEL ACQUIRED BY BANK LEU

A half-shekel of the Fourth Year of the First Revolt (69CE) was acquired by Bank Leu in the same auction for \$51,603. The edge reveals that the coin had been at one time in a claw mount, otherwise it was graded VF.

At the auction, Roman gold and bronze material sold in line with prior estimates.



Herzl medals and other memorabilia displayed at Anson presentation.



Summer exhibit of historic Jewish coins created by Westchester INS.

## WINS COIN EXHIBIT AT JUDAICA MUSEUM

By Michael J. Druck, V.P., WINS, N.Y.

Members and friends of the Israel Numismatic Society of Westchester (WINS) gathered at the Judaica Museum in Riverdale, New York on July 10 to celebrate the opening of the first club exhibit at a Judaica Museum by any INS group in the U.S. The gathering heard a lecture by noted numismatist Manfred Anson of New Jersey.

Attendees were invited to view the museum's regular exhibits as well as the new WINS exhibit, "Israel's Coins in History" and "Jewish Coins

of the Second Temple Period". Both trace the history of the Jewish people through coinage.

After viewing of exhibits, all adjourned to the auditorium for coffee and pastry and to hear Manfred Anson deliver his slide lecture, "The Medallic History of Theodore Herzl". Before introduction of WINS President Fred Jacobs, a telegram received from AINA President Morris Bram congratulating the INS of Westchester on the opening of the exhibit was read. Mr. Anson took his



Manfred Anson speaks on Herzl.



Fred Jacobs, Manfred Anson, Michael Druck, and Nat Sobel.

audience on a whirlwind tour of the life of the great Zionist leader Herzl from his earliest days to his untimely death in his early forties.

The Judaica Museum is located in the westernmost section of the Bronx along the Hudson River in a penthouse at the Hebrew Home for the Aged. The curator, Mr. Ralph Baum and his wife Leuba, donated their lifetime collection of Jewish ceremonial and historical objects to the museum, and they are the driving force behind its continued exis-

tence. Many of the museum's day-to-day operations are handled by Mr. Leon Wolf, a former executive at the Jewish National Fund in New York City.

The museum is located at 5961 Palisade Avenue, Riverdale, New York, 10471. The telephone number is (212)-548-1006. Call to confirm visiting hours for your planned tour.

To contact the INS of Westchester, write P.O. Box 305, Wykygal Station, New Rochelle, NY 10804.

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## EARLIEST KNOWN ARIZONA TERRITORY TOKEN BY ALEX LEVIN



Brass "good-fors" from early Tucson, and Tombstone reflect much of Arizona's colorful past.

The earliest known token of Tucson, Arizona Territory, is a 25-cent size brass check "good for one bit at the bar," issued by Alex Levin.

Born in Prussia, Levin settled in Tucson after the Civil War, married Zenona Molina of Sonora, Mexico; and established Levin's Park and Theatre at the foot of Pennington Street in Tucson in 1869.

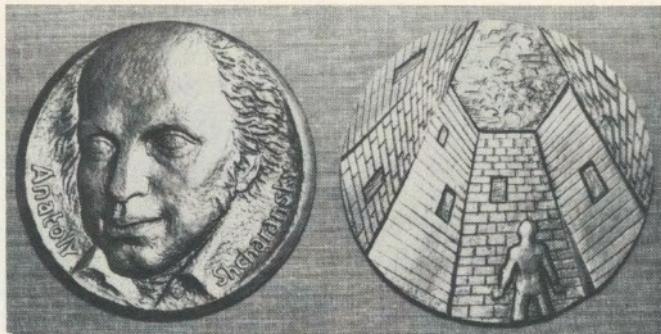
Levin's Park encompassed seven acres of shade trees, a restaurant, dance hall, opera theatre, music pavilion and bar, and was the site of every important event in early Tucson.

Alex Levin died in 1887. His descendants in the musical entertainment world include violinist Natalie (Levin) Eschavarria, singer Luisa

(Ronstadt) Espinol and rock star Linda Ronstadt. Another descendant of this Arizona pioneer is Tucson Police Chief Peter Ronstadt.

The token is from the collection of Robert Tamarantz which includes more than 400 tokens from 120 towns, rare Indian trading posts, abandoned military installations and ghost mining towns.

Tamarantz's extensive collection includes brass, cardboard, white metal and aluminum tokens in many sizes and shapes which early Arizona merchants used to advertise and promote their businesses. Many represent the only records extant of ghost towns which have disappeared over the last century. — Excerpted from COIN WORLD.



## FORMER LENINGRAD MINT ARTIST CREATES SHCHARANSKY “PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE” MEDAL

In March, 1500 delegates gathered in Jerusalem at the *World Conference on Soviet Jewry* to stimulate pressure to free Jewish prisoners and reopen emigration. Only 125 Soviet Jews left in February, less than left on an average day during the peak year of 1979. Sources say 10,000 families have applied to leave, have lost their jobs and await exit visas.

Hunger strikes have been attempted in desperation without any positive results. Soviet chess champion Boris Gulka ended his fast for freedom after 40 days. The best known “prisoner of conscience,” Anatoly Shcharansky, conducted his hunger strike for over 100 days. He remains in solitary confinement in the Chistopol Prison.

Despite letter campaigns, demonstrations, and an International Tribunal to “investigate charges that the USSR has violated the human and civil rights of Soviet citizen Anatoly Shcharansky,” he “celebrated” his 35th birthday in prison on January 20, as he has done for the past six years. He has been sentenced to thirteen years in the infamous Gulag Archipelago.

In April 1973, Shcharansky applied for a visa to Israel. In spite of the fact that he had never worked in his profession as physicist, the reason given for refusal was “access to classified material.” On July 4, 1974 he married Avital; the next day she was able to leave for Israel. Again detained, he served numerous short 10-15 day prison terms, all without charges being filed.

Shcharansky was arrested again in March of 1977 on charges of “treason” and “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda,” including spying for the CIA. In 1981, he spent 185 days in a solitary punishment cell and was sentenced to prison again after a court decree that he failed “to work at rehabilitation” and continued to consider himself innocent.”

Shcharansky has not been allowed to receive mail since 1981 and has not seen visitors since January, 1982. His mother has not seen him in over a year.

To honor this heroic “Prisoner of Conscience,” a monumental 4½” bronze medal was commissioned and produced in very limited num-

bers. These medals serve as a permanent reminder of rights all too often taken for granted.

The Shcharansky medal's creator, Alex Shagin, is no stranger to the desperate situation of Russia's Refuseniks; he was one himself. Shagin studied for six years at the Leningrad Mukhina Fine and Decorative Art School. Upon graduation, he was selected to join the artistic staff of the Leningrad Mint. There Alex designed the official Apollo-Soyuz medals presented to the American astronauts during their visit to the Soviet Union. He designed many of the 1980 Moscow Olympics commemorative coins.

When he and his parents applied for exit visas, Shagin immediately lost his high position. Today, Alex lives in Los Angeles. Over the last few years he has created distinctive award medals for major Jewish organizations. However, his medallic tribute to fellow Refusenik, Anatoly Shcharansky, is not only the most "meaningful" assignment since gaining freedom, but it is also his first medallic work to be made available to the public.

Shagin's portrait of Shcharansky is dramatically sculptured. The reverse movingly depicts the powerless feel-

ing of Russian Jews and other Soviet citizens now deprived of the means to earn a living and otherwise harassed when they express a desire for freedom. A lone figure is surrounded by high-rising walls; the walls may be real as in Shcharansky's lonely solitary confinement or they could represent pressures applied by the Communist state. However, above the walls there is a hint of a world of freedom. Shagin has purposely portrayed the hope for the future in a six-sided form, alluding to the Star of David, symbol of the Jewish religion.

A portion of proceeds from the medal sales will be contributed to Shcharansky's wife, Avital in Israel, and to the Councils for Soviet Jewry in over 30 American cities. The impressive 4½" hand-patinated bronze Anatoly Shcharansky medals are available to those making \$100 contributions to the non-profit Magnes Museum, "The Jewish Museum of the West."

Only 250 medals will be individually serial numbered and personally initialed on the edge by the artist Alex Shagin. Contributions should be sent to the Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, California 94705.

## BOUND VOLUMES

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# Israel Trade Coins 5742 - 1982

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

The following are the quantities of the trade coins minted last year:

	Jerusalem	Paris	Chile	Stuttgart, Germany
1 new agora	—	—	—	1,000,000
5 new agorot	—	—	—	5,00,000
10 new agorot	—	—	—	23,000,000
½ Sheqel	18,710,484	—	—	—
1 Sheqel	—	15,850,000	—	—
5 Sheqalim	—	12,000,000	18,000,000	—
10 Sheqalim	18,084,250	—	—	28,00,000

In 5740-1980, 200,000,000 1 agora coins were minted at Ottawa. In 1982, 90,000,000 of these were melted down.

I am grateful to Mr. Shmuel Aviezer for the information presented here.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Bram, or isn't it better to call you as all your friends call you, just "Morris." Dearest Morris.

This letter is personally sent to you, but I would like, if possible, for it to be published for this is a "thank you" letter I want all AINA members to read.

A few days ago I received The Shekel, which carried another article I wrote. But I was astounded to find another volume: "Index to The Shekel."

Do you remember that March 15 years ago when the first AINA group visited Israel? You encouraged the members of the Israel Numismatic Society, half a branch, and especially me to write articles for The Shekel. When we asked: "What Shall we write about? You said: "about any Jewish Numismatic material, and so I did. It was a holiday for me when I received The Shekel with my first article. I did not believe my eyes; my article has been published in a Jewish numismatic journal.

Since then I have watched The Shekel expand publishing articles of every Judaic numismatic issue possible, from ancient to modern coins, medals, paper money and tokens up to modern Israel's official money.

The Shekel gave collectors a chance to express themselves. We find in its pages articles by the best known professional numismatists and by numismatists you pushed to write articles. You gave them this honoured stage: "The Shekel" where their articles found audience. Most of the writers are now experienced, thanks to you.

I found in the Index 32 articles and notes I wrote, all published in The Shekel in the last 15 years.

In summing up the Index of what I wrote, I did not believe that I could have readied that many. I decided at that moment to write you this letter of thanks for it is only thanks to you that I created this group of contributions.

Many, many thanks.

Eli (Semmelman)  
Haifa

## To the Editor:

The beginning of an A.I.N.A. Library in Cleveland, is one of the most progressive steps taken since the inception of AINA. This library parallels the ANA and Library of Congress libraries inasmuch as it will create never-before assembled information and reference material pertaining to Israeli numismatics and Judaica.

Each INS Club should set up a fund or foundation in its name to support this Library. A contest between the various clubs as to who best assembles the most beneficial material within a given period of time might make a very fine starting point towards building a complete reference library.

Kurt E. Levy  
INS of Brooklyn

(Editor: Excerpted  
letter of June 8, 1983).

## "VALOR COIN" AWARDED TO GENERAL URI ORR



Jerusalem, Israel—Dr. Yohanan Bader, new chairman of the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation, awards General Uri Orr the recently issued "Valor Coin".

The new coin in gold and silver, commemorates the valor of Isra-

el's Defense Forces. General Orr commands the central region of Israel which includes Jerusalem.

From right to left: Dr. Y. Bader, Mr. Eliezer Shiloni and General U. Orr.

## SHEKELS OF NEW YORK — 1930



Arlie Slabaugh thought Shekel readers might like to see a different kind of shekel. This item, from his collection of advertising notes, dates from 1930. Do any New York City readers recall the promotion? Or one of them win the radio? The note is printed in light green and black.



## TOP RECRUITERS

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### **AINA ELECTED OFFICERS OR DIRECTORS**

J. J. VAN GROVER	9
MOE WEINSCHEL	3
MEL WACKS	2
DAVID PASZAMANT	1
JERRY YAHALOM	1

### **WORKING MEMBERS**

IRVING WOOL	13
GEORGE GILBERT	5
SAM ABRAMS	3
MARGO RUSSELL	2
CARL ROSENBLUM	1
MICHAEL DRUCK	1
JACK GARFIELD	1

Here's a chance to reap rewards for helping to build AINA. New members enrolled between May 1, 1983 and April 15, 1984 will be scored on this page in The Shekel.

First Prize winner (Top Sponsor): the Jerusalem Intl. Book Fair Medal of 1977 (CM-89; Tombac-Mintage 350). Second Prize: Jerusalem Intl. Numis. Mtg. of 1979 Medal (CM-99; Tombac-Mintage 2,945). Third Prize: 15th Anniv. Tour Medal.

Have you enrolled a friend in AINA?



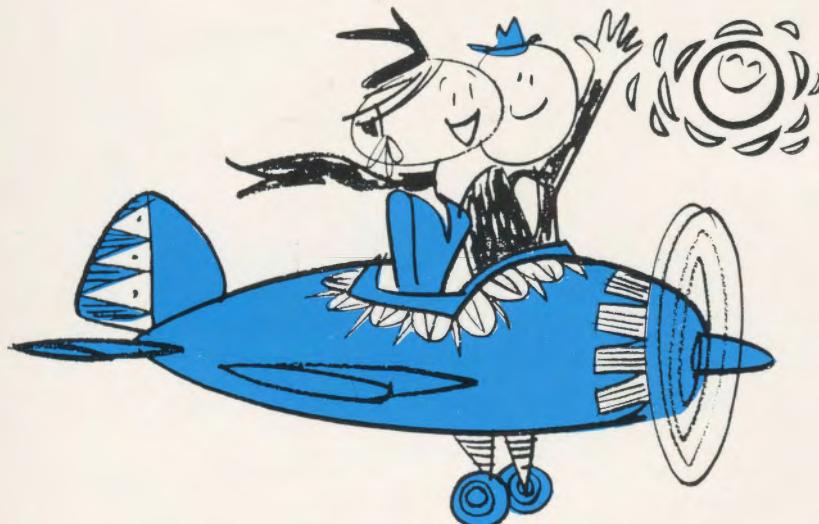
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Auctioneer  
Lee J. Bellisario

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For further information, contact Jack Garfield, General Chairman  
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